

**USCIS Email sent August 15, 2019**

Dear U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Newark Asylum Office and Boston Asylum Sub-Office Stakeholder,

This message is to notify you that, in response to shifting priorities and the continued influx of cases at the Southwest Border, both the Newark Asylum Office and the Sub Office in Boston will be diverting a greater number of staff to the APSO caseload.

Effective Monday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, both offices will assign a majority of interviewing officers to the Credible Fear/Reasonable Fear workload. Officers will continue to travel to the Southwest border, and an increased number of officers will be assigned to interview Credible Fear and Reasonable Fear cases either in-person or telephonically from the home offices.

This will necessarily have an impact on our Affirmative caseload. We intend to continue to interview a small number of cases in the Newark (Lyndhurst) office. In Boston, staff will continue to complete the process of interviewed cases, but no new interviews will be scheduled for the time being. In both offices, the caseload will be monitored and we will resume a more robust interview schedule as soon as possible. To the extent that cases are scheduled for an interview at all, the scheduling will continue to follow existing priorities. We will continue to maintain and schedule cases from our 'expedite' list and our 'short-notice' list, although, of course, the opportunities to do so will diminish.

We are disappointed not to be able to continue to cut into our backlog or to adjudicate affirmative cases. We appreciate your understanding.

Sincerely,

Susan  
Raufer  
Director,  
Newark Asylum Office

Meghann Boyle,  
Sub-Office  
Director  
Boston Asylum Sub-Office